

Shelby County Fire Department
Headquarters
1075 Mullins Station Rd. Bldg. "C", 2nd floor
Memphis, TN 38134



******* EVENT NOTIFICATION *******

Event Date: January 5th, 2015

Family Of Three Saved By Working Smoke Detector

During the overnight hours (approx. 03:20am) of Monday January 5th, Dispatchers from the Shelby County Fire Department received a frantic call for help from the seventy-seven hundred block of Lowrance near Hacks Cross. The caller was stating that a smoke detector had awakened them and that their home was on fire. While dispatchers instructed the caller on exactly what to do, engine companies from around the area of southeast Shelby County and Memphis were “toned out” for a full assignment residential structure fire.

Arriving in only eight minutes, firefighters from SCFD engines 62 and 63 found the home to be pushing heavy smoke from the eaves and attic spaces. They established water sources from nearby fire hydrants and pulled pre-connected attack fire hoses into the house through the front door. Once inside, they found the fire to be seated in the area of the kitchen and a determined and focused attack on that blaze had the fire under control in less than twenty-two minutes from the time of dispatch.

In all, at the height of suppression, some twenty fire fighters from both Shelby County and Memphis were working this emergency scene. There are no injuries and fire fighters were not hampered by effects from the below freezing temperatures which hovered near 23 degrees.

Commanders on the scene attribute the positive outcome of this home fire to the proper operation of the smoke detector within the home. “Had they (the smoke detectors) not been working properly”, said Battalion Chief Ian Seivwright, “then it is quite possible that we could be in a situation where people might have died tonight. “We don’t like to see people lose their property but in light of what could have happened out here, I see a young family alive and well because the smoke detector functioned as designed.”

The 1,575 square foot home has been saved although some smoke and water damage resulted. The SCFD issues this ardent reminder that the proper installation and functionality of a smoke detector will result in doubling the chance of escaping a house fire unharmed and alive. If you do not have a smoke detector or have questions about the operation of one where you live, every fire department in this region is ready to assure you that they can help. Contact your local fire department if you need help with a smoke detector situation.



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